

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

This invention provides patterned tread strips of uniform shape and dimension from salvaged tire carcass tread strips adapted for producing products requiring stacked layers of tread strips. Novel methods of and apparatus for shaping the tread strips in one embodiment results in trimming edges of substantially rectangular shaped tread strips salvaged from tire carcasses having two shorter ends and two longer sides to produce precisely uniform width between the longer sides. Thus the longitudinal tread strips may be passed from one end longitudinally through a power actuated strip feeder which establishes slicing means operable at designated spacings near opposite edges of the tread strips to cut away edges and produce uniform longitudinal strip widths between said two shorter ends as the strips pass through the strip feeder. Other shaping embodiments of the invention include tread surface shavers for producing strips of precise thickness, and length cutters to provide specified lengths. Apertures and indentations are introduced in the tread strips and strip rubber and fabric is relieved of inherent tensions and compressions by means of laser treatment in other embodiments of the invention, thus providing a set of tools for a system of comprehensively shaping tread strips at serial processing stations located along a transit path.